

The Historic Vessels of Hyde Street Pier

Hyde Street Pier was built in 1922 for automobile ferries between San Francisco and Sausalito. The ferry route was part of U.S. 101 until the Golden Gate Bridge opened in 1937.

Today the pier and a number of the historic vessels moored here are open to visitors. Five vessels—*Alma*, *Balclutha*, *Eureka*, *Hercules*, and *C.A. Thayer*—are designated National Historic Landmarks. The pier also has a variety of maritime structures and exhibits. Welcome aboard!

Alma The last San Francisco Bay scow schooner still afloat, *Alma* is the park's sailing ambassador, welcomed by port cities around the bay. Flat-bottomed scows like this carried bulk cargoes—hay, grain, and fertilizer—between delta farm communities and San Francisco.

Balclutha Walk up this ship's gangway and back to the 19th century. This square-rigger was built in Scotland to haul California wheat to Europe. Crew lived on board for months at a time during the treach-

erous voyage around Cape Horn. Compare the sailors' bunks in the forecabin to the Captain's quarters aft. Like the rest of the park's fleet, *Balclutha* survived because it kept working after other vessels of its class were scuttled.

C.A. Thayer This schooner is representative of hundreds that sailed the Pacific Coast. In Puget Sound ports eight-man crews piled the deck high with Douglas fir, the raw material for California's cities in the early 20th century. *Thayer* later carried

small boats and fishing crews to Alaska for salmon and cod.

Eppleton Hall This sturdy little tugboat from England crossed the Atlantic under its own power in 1969. "*Eppie*" recalls the earliest days of steam navigation on the bay.

Eureka Originally built to ferry trains across the bay, this vessel was rebuilt in 1922 to serve passengers and automobiles. Don't miss the classic autos and trucks displayed on the lower deck.

Hercules Imagine a slow trip down the coast, towing a huge log raft and fishing off the stern for your dinner. This workhorse towed big ships out to sea, pushed railroad car barges across the bay, and towed huge lock structures to build the Panama Canal.

Small Craft The park's boat shop restores these often unheralded, everyday craft used for work and pleasure on the bay: feluccas, Montereys, and yachts. The shop also offers classes for the public.



Alma: scow schooner; 59 feet. Built 1891 San Francisco, Cal.



Balclutha: square-riggered ship; 256 feet. Built 1886 Glasgow, Scotland.



C.A. Thayer: three-masted schooner; 156 feet. Built 1895 Fairhaven, Cal.



Eppleton Hall: steel tug boat; 100.5 feet. Built 1914 South Shields, England.



Eureka: side-wheel ferry; 299.5 feet. Originally built 1890 as *Ukiah*, Tiburon, Cal. Refitted 1922 as *Eureka*.



Hercules: steam-powered tug boat; 139 feet. Built 1907 Camden, N.J.



Small craft moored on the east side of Hyde Street Pier.



School children on board *Balclutha*. Park rangers lead interpretive programs for visitors of all ages.

Library and Collections



Above left: Salmon fishermen on board *Star of Alaska*, ca. 1920s. Above right: The park's research library. Below: Steamship brochure, 1880s.



Artifacts, scrapbooks, sailors' crafts, and shipboard machinery—all tell personal stories about the men and women who created and used them. In the visitor center's Collections Discovery Room, listen to sea chanteys (songs) or an oral history describing a 1906 voyage on the park's lumber schooner *C.A. Thayer*. For visitors who want to learn more, thousands of books, photographs, and documents make the Maritime Library the first stop for West Coast maritime history research.

The J. Porter Shaw Maritime Library is located at Fort Mason Center, Building E. The library allows access to the park's photograph and document collections. Open to the public five days a week and the third Saturday of each month by appointment only; call 415-561-7080 (recording) or 415-561-7030 (library staff member). The archives and museum catalog is at www.museum.nps.gov; the library catalog is at www.library.nps.gov.

PHOTOGRAPHS: NPS / TIM CAMPBELL AND STEVE DANFORD UNLESS OTHERWISE CREDITED.

Planning Your Visit

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park is just west of Fisherman's Wharf. The area is served by public transit; call 415-673-MUNI or visit www.sfmuni.com. Paid parking is available nearby. The park is open daily, year-round. The visitor center and pier are closed on Thanksgiving, December 25, and January 1.

Visitor Center

Located in the historic brick cannery warehouse, home of the Argonaut Hotel, the visitor center has orientation information to help you plan your visit. Exhibits tell the stories of men and women who worked on the waterfront and at sea. 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. with extended summer hours. No admission fee. 415-447-5000.

Hyde Street Pier

At the corner of Jefferson and Hyde streets, Hyde Street Pier has historic steam and sailing vessels as well as

other maritime exhibits and interpretive demonstrations. Go below deck on *Balclutha* to learn about the commercial goods carried by this square-riggered ship. On the tug *Hercules* you can hear what the original engine sounded like. No fee for pier; admission fee to board vessels.

Aquatic Park Bathhouse Building

This building is closed for a multi-year rehabilitation.

Aquatic Park Historic Landmark District

Stroll through the gardens, along the waterfront, or out on Municipal Pier. Watch the cable cars turn around. Visit one of the city's few urban beaches. Spot boats and birds in the bay—and even swimmers in the lagoon.

USS Pampanito

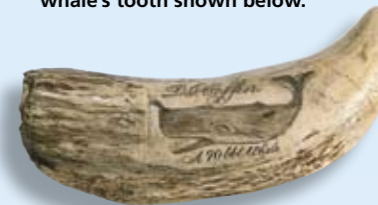
Pier 45. Restored, maintained, and operated by the San Francisco Mari-

time National Park Association, this World War II fleet submarine made long-range cruises in the Pacific. Open daily. Admission fee.

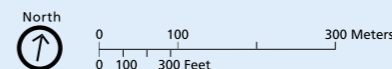
More Information

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park Building E, Fort Mason Center San Francisco, CA 94123 415-447-5000 www.nps.gov/safr

Exhibits in the visitor center include the lens from the Farallon Lighthouse at right and the scrimshawed whale's tooth shown below.



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- San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park vessels and buildings
- Walking route between Maritime Library, Maritime Museum, Hyde Street Pier, Visitor Center, and USS Pampanito



SAN FRANCISCO BAY